of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission. The Special Group submitted its report in May 2002.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister announced at the Economic Advisory Council 13th July, 2002 meeting that an action plan to implement salient recommendations of the Report of Special Group will be prepared.

Contribution of women labour in national development

279. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) what is the estimated contribution of women labour in national development—social, educational, agricultural and other areas of development;

(b) whether it is a fact that due recognition is not given to women labour in policy making, planning, allocation of resources, provision of support, services and information; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to give due recognition to women labour ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Out of the total labour force and employed persons in the country in 1999-2000, women constituted 25.84% and 25.73% respectively.

(b) and (c) Equal opportunities are available to women through Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. Maternity benefits to female workers are available through Maternity Benefit Act, 1961. Many other enactments include special provisions to safeguard interests of women workers.